

April 4, 1963

Dr. William F. Fitzgerald, Director  
The Science and Industry Awards  
California Museum of Science and Industry  
700 State Drive  
Los Angeles 37, California

Dear Dr. Fitzgerald:

The names of professor Charles Yanofsky and Professor Paul Berg have recently been brought to my attention as nominees for the California Scientist of the Year. Each of these men have such an outstanding record of achievement that an award to either of them would be exemplary of the high standards in the tradition of these awards. My only puzzle is which of them to choose, but perhaps I should take account of the fact that this is not my responsibility but yours.

In offering any comment, my purpose is simply to point out the unusual qualifications that each of these men represents. What would be both unwise and unjust would be to take any account of this simultaneity of excellence in two separate departments of one of the centers of Academic research in California as a demerit in your consideration of either of them. There is no question of any sense of resentment or competition between either of the men or among their proponents, and my own personal admiration for either of them is not in any way tempered by the superb qualities of the other.

The award committee will have an easier problem but a happy one if there are any other candidates this year who can clearly override the qualifications presented on behalf of both Yanofsky and Berg. If California does have such men, we should all have to be pleased about it.

Very truly yours,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

JL:as

YANOFSKY - see Lt. Prof. Dept. file